

My name is Anita Lampel. I live in District 1. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to the Supplemental Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Department of Police, COVID-19 ARPA Relief Funds, \$731,125.

I oppose this appropriation because it fails to embrace community-based, non-carceral gun violence prevention. The U.S. Treasury regulation offered several examples of how to invest in gun violence prevention which did not use departments of police as service providers.

Instead, the Montgomery County Department of Police request proposes the Department of Police as a pass-through agency, with its own overhead, to fund programs which operate out of and are staffed by other county departments and which **should be directly given to those departments**. Specifically, the Department of Health and Human Services currently operates the Street Outreach Network. Montgomery County's Family Justice Center and Domestic Violence Coordinating Council operate the domestic violence intervention and prevention programs. And our Recreation Department should receive the funding for additional sports or other activities that would help youth. Maybe not every vulnerable child wants to play basketball! And why should our police, who state they cannot recruit enough folks, want to have officers playing basketball?

In addition, the Department of Police has requested \$471,875, 65% of the funding, for a Violent Crime Information Center. This violence intelligence center only perpetuates harmful surveillance practices. There is no data to support the concept that such a center would indeed reduce violent crime in the county. There is data that improving other areas of service, such as behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, housing and rental assistance, and direct financial assistance do reduce violence in communities without increasing policing and incarceration. Why are we ignoring ARPA's intention in offering funds?

Thank you for your consideration.